

CREATE 2011-12-Newsletter Article

We are entering our fourth year of the CREATE Initiative with a high level of optimism. There are more statewide districts showing interest in this initiative and seeking technical assistance in order to fully meet the needs of all children. The CREATE office continues to be in communication through Facebook, Twitter, email, monthly newsletters and our website. These tools have been developed to assist those who desire to work on improving disproportionality in their districts.

The CREATE office has been quite busy assisting in the preparation of next year's conference led by Becky Collins and Juliet Cole. In fact, our discussions have moved toward a tentative conference date for April 25, 2013.

The six consortium districts (Eau Claire, Janesville, Beloit, Waukesha, Kenosha, and Fond du Lac) will be reconvening on November 30, 2011 and tentatively March 2012 to discuss the successes and challenges of implementing their district equity plans. This networking strategic planning session will be facilitated by David Davidson of the Pacific Educational Group.

Andy Gokee (CESA 12), American Indian Student Achievement Network, and Jayne VanDeHey (CESA 8), Early Childhood Culturally Responsive Education, continue to collaborate with the same districts assisted by Don Rosin who is serving as a Tribal Ambassador. The Tribal Ambassador has played a vital role in connecting CREATE with Native families and community members. Don is scheduled to present in Albuquerque, New Mexico about CREATE at the NIEA (National Indian Education Association) conference on October 28, 2011.

Barb Van Haren (CESA 1), Culturally Responsive Classroom Practices, Mary Kampa (CESA 11), Needs Assessment, and Melissa Moe (CESA11), Professional Development Opportunities, Andy Gokee (CESA 12), American Indian Student Achievement Network, and Becky Collins (CESA 9)/Juliet Cole, CREATE Conference will be submitting articles to the newsletter updating you on the progress of their components. On October 31, 2011, Donna Hart-Tervalon, Ph.D., Erin Bonnin, Dr. Van Haren, Ms. Kampa, Robyn Criego (ECASD), Tim Leibham (ECASD) and I will be presenting on CREATE at the third annual Summit on Courageous Conversations Conference in San Francisco. Our PowerPoint will be available on the website the day of our scheduled presentation. This month you will be able to read the year two CREATE evaluation written by Lisa Hoogstra of the American Institute for Research.

The CREATE office is continuously updating the calendar on various activities taking place in the state. Beyond Diversity is scheduled for December 6-7, 2011, in Madison. Continue to refer to our calendar for additional information.

Ron Dunlap

CREATE Coordinator